

# Welcome to Voksenåsen, Oslo, 16 -17 Nov 2007

Voksenaasen Culture Centre invites you to what is intended as the first conference in the Nordic-African Dialogue Burning Issues series. We are working together with Networkers SouthNorth; the Dag Hammarskjöld Centre for Peace, Good Governance and Human Rights in Kitwe, Zambia; and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in Uppsala, Sweden, as well as a number of other institutions and individuals.

## - a dialogue conference on the unpredictable past and future of Genocide

«The big journey» William B. Miko - 2006. The artist is from Ndola in Zambia  
( Voksenåsen. collection )



*«What went wrong when the horror of genocide hit? Forgotten and hidden conflicts and inaction where intervention was needed, mark a sad lack of commitment as well as deliberate manipulation and pure ignorance. Are there any lessons learnt?»*

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networkers  
**SOUTH  
NORTH**

Voksenåsen  Oslo

Ullveien 4, 0791 Oslo

Tlf. 22 81 15 00

[www.voksenaasen.no](http://www.voksenaasen.no)

[program@voksenaasen.no](mailto:program@voksenaasen.no)

**The theme of genocide** is a complex one, a wide range of stories and histories, acting groups, forces and scenarios, vested interests and lots of room for getting lost in controversy and conflict. In short, both the understanding of the past as well as expectations for the future of genocide are unpredictable. And we are reminded of the “Never forget” of the many Holocaust memorials, as well as of Harold Pinter’s Nobel address: “But it never happened. Nothing ever happened. Even while it was happening, it wasn’t really happening. It didn’t matter. It was of no interest!”

The people we have invited for this conference are well schooled or experienced in the theme and content of genocide, as academics, activists or politicians. We have a simple, almost naive, vantage point for the dialogue, inspired by the late UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld: “What can we do today to make the world a better place tomorrow?”

The focus for the conference will primarily be on, but not limited to, Africa. Further, the invited speakers will not be confined to predetermined topics decided by the organisers, but will be invited to respond to broadly sketched themes that we have identified through preparatory talks over the last few months:

- \* Are there specific Northern and Southern perspectives on the theme of Genocide? And what are the ramifications of the answer to that question?
- \* Have we forgotten the role of the colonizer? Blacked out crucial parts of the history of genocide, or even hidden it deliberately?
- \* Can the history of genocide be distilled and converted into lessons learnt?
- \* What is the role of hegemonic powers or collective efforts in creating new options for peace and development in the wake of genocide?
- \* Beyond vested interests, vengeance and sacrifice in the history of genocide; how can we develop effective mechanisms for prevention, based on insight and hope.
- \* What are the burning issues of today?

This conference will look at genocide and other gross human rights violations that are going on today, look for signs of genocide in the making, and visit the likely challenges that will confront us.

The format of this conference is sessions built around key-note inputs to trigger panels of engaged individuals and experts and open up for plenary discussions, forming a dialogue of comments, exchange and deliberations in an open and unrestrained fashion.

## **Friday 16th November**

12.00 Lunch and Welcome

By Berit Oscarsson, Chair of Voksenaasens Board

13.00 «Is there a genocide in Darfur? Reflections from the UN 2003-2006», by Jan Egeland former UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, and currently Director NUPI

### **Panel dialogue:**

Jan Egeland, Director, NUPI

Kenneth Kaunda, First President of Zambia

Hassan Bubacar Jallow, Chief Prosecutor, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Gunnar M. Sørbø, Director, Chr. Michelsen Institute

Emily Sikazwe, Women for Change

Henning Melber, Research Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation

Chair: Arne Ruth Senior Journalist

15.30 Genocide – speaking of the unspeakable, by Bernt Hagtvet, Professor, UiO Norway

**19.00 – 21.00 Dinner** Host: Swedish Ambassador to Norway, Michael Sahlin.

Greetings by Zambia’s First President Kenneth Kaunda and former Ambassador Bernt H. Lund

## Saturday 17th of November

**Session I 09.00 - 10.30 What is genocide? And are there specific Southern and Northern perspectives on Genocide? By Alejandro Bendaña, Director of CEI, Nicaragua.**

**Panel dialogue:**

Alejandro Bendaña, Director of CEI  
Joyce Apsel, Professor  
Emily Sikazwe, Director, Women for Change, Zambia  
Bernt hagtvet, Professor UiO  
Hassan Jallow, Chief Prosecutor

Chair: Henning Melber, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Uppsala, Sweden

Break 10.30-11.00 coffee and tea

**Session II 11.00 – 12.30 What is burning? Current African Scenario, Charles Abugre, Head of Policy, Christian Aid, UK**

**Panel dialogue:**

Charles Abugre, Head of Policy  
Ragnar Ångeby, Ambassador  
Emily Sikazwe, Director  
Gabriel Banda, Journalist  
Jimmy Mulanda Juma, Director  
Ingrid Samset, Researcher, Chr. Michelsens Institute

Chair: Michael Sahlin, Ambassador

Lunch 12.30 – 14.00

**Session III 14.00 – 15.30 What can we do? Identifying roles and options for action, Jimmy Mulanda Juma, Coordinator of the Dag Hammarskjöld Centre in Zambia and Øystein Tveter, Networkers South North.**

Panel to be decided

Chairs: Emily Sikazwe and Joyce Apsel

**Session IV 15.30 – 16.00 Towards a statement, by Henning Melber and Bernt Hagtvet.**

**Closing message, Arne Ruth, Journalist and Editor**

**Reporting by Tore Linné Eriksen, Professor**

**Conference initiative, administration and coordination:**

### **NETWORKERS SOUTH NORTH**

Is a network organisation of internationally engaged researchers, writers and civil society representatives focusing on and pursuing Southern perspectives on current global justice-, human rights and development issues.

### **MINDOLO ECUMENICAL FOUNDATION**

that was established in 1958, and **The Dag Hammarskjöld Center for Peace and good Governance** that is a part of MEF in Kitwe, Zambia, is working with promoting the legacy of Dag Hammarskjöld. An important issue is to develop fieldwork programs in Political Science and Peacebuilding for youth and students in Africa.

### **VOKSENAASEN**

is Norway's national gift to Sweden as a token of gratitude for Swedish aid during and shortly after World War II. Voksenåsen of today is the Swedish centre for Culture and Conferences in Norway and one of the leading in its class. We also arrange our own conferences, seminars and cultural events. Voksenåsen has a substantial collection of art and literature.

\***Charles Abugre** is currently the head of policy at Christian Aid. He trained as a development economist and came to Christian Aid from teaching development studies at the University of Wales, Swansea. Abugre comes from Ghana and has headed two of the major NGOs in this country, the Africa secretariat of the Third World Network and the Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC).

\***Ragnar Ångeby**, the Folke Bernadotte Academy, EU ambassador and author of many books in the field of conflict management.

\***Joyce Apsei** Ph.D, J.D. teaches at New York University. Is Director at the human rights education project Rights Works International. Visiting Researcher at the Center for the Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities. Her latest book is called «Darfur: Genocide Before Our Eyes» (2007)

\***Gabriel Banda** is a Zambian journalist and writer and active in his countries NGO life and in discussing current affairs. He has been particularly engaged in promoting African unity and highlighting postcolonial challenges in country building.

\* **Alejandro Bendaña**, professor, director CEI, Centre for International Studies, Nicaragua, former Nicaraguan ambassador to the UN and engaged in UN peace negotiations i.a. in Indonesia, Horn of Africa and Sri Lanka. He is a founding member of Jubilee South and recently co-edited the book Global Justice, The White Man's Burden, on the topics of reconciliation and the politics of development assistance.

\* **Jan Egeland**, newly appointed director of NUPI, Oslo and former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations. He has a background as head of Norwegian Amnesty International and of the Red Cross, Norway. He has also served as deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Norway.

\* **Tore Linné Eriksen** is professor at University College Oslo, historian and development researcher, former leader of the Norwegian Socialist Left Party, a prolific writer and author of scholarly articles and books, most recently on the Namibian genocide 1903-1908.

\* **Bernt Hagtvet** is professor at the University of Oslo, M.Phil. in Social Science from Yale University. Hagtvet is i.a. active in the discourse of European politics, the history and sociology of extreme movements, as well as the study of democracy, human rights, and genocide. He is a prolific writer and deeply engaged in Norwegian popular and professional debate in these fields of interest.

\* **Hassan Bubacar Jallow**, Justice Chief prosecutor International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Gambia's Attorney-General and Minister of Justice 1984 -1994 and as Judge of the Gambia's Supreme Court from 1998 - 2002. UN legal expert for the judicial evaluation of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (1998).

\* **Jimmy Mulanda Juma**, coordinator of the Dag Hammarskjold Centre for Peace in Kitwe, Zambia. He holds a degree in Social Science from Durban, South Africa

\* **Kenneth Kaunda**, first president of Zambia, serving from 1963-1991. Currently engaged in diplomacy related to Pan-African and Global issues, as well as in advocacy and relief work for aids stricken communities, in particular children.

\* **Henning Melber** is Director of the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation, Uppsala Sweden, author and researcher, and former Research Director of the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden. Melber has lived most of his life in Namibia and has covered a number of topics on African history and development. He is Vice President of the International Network on Genocide Scholars.

\***Arne Ruth**, member of Voksenaasens board, was born in Berlin and came to Sweden 1945 by the Bernadotte Aid. Ruth has worked at several dailies and Swedish Radio and Television Corporation. In 1988 he became editor-in-chief for culture at the leading liberal daily, «Dagens Nyheter». Arne Ruth is an internationally well-known advocate for freedom of expression and was the chair of the Swedish Rushdie Committee.

\***Emily Sikazwe** is Director at Women for Change, Zambia with hundreds of local community groups. She holds a Master of Adult Education and MSc. in Agronomy and is deeply engaged in women's empowerment, initiatives and programmes in her home country Zambia.

\* **Michael Sahlin** holds a PhD in Political Science, and has served Swedish ambassador to a number of countries, currently to Norway. He is the founder and former head of the Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sweden.

\***Ingrid Samset** Chr. Michelsens Institute, is a peace and conflict researcher focusing on postwar dynamics. She has worked extensively on Sri Lanka, South Africa and Rwanda as well as Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo, which are her current foci of research.

**Gunnar M. Sørbø**, is the director of Chr. Michelsens Institute. Social anthropologist with extensive experience from research, research management and consultancy work. His interests include development policy and planning; conflict and peacebuilding; social impact assessment (incl. resettlement).

\***Øystein Tveter** is a human rights attorney, with a life long engagement in global human rights, justice and development issues. He has a background from NORAD and Lutheran World Federation's programs in Africa, from civil society organizations. Tveter is presently a juror at the Permanent People's Tribunal based in Rome.

#### Practical information

Apply to: [program@voksenaasen.no](mailto:program@voksenaasen.no)  
or contact phone +47 22 81 15 06  
by 9th November.

Conference fee NOK 500,- per day. Lunch is included. Additional cost for dinner and accomodation. Students may apply for scholarship to cover conference fee.

If you cannot attend but would like the conference report sent to you, contact [program@voksenaasen.no](mailto:program@voksenaasen.no)

#### Secretariat: registration and accomodation

Siri Døhlen  
Tlf. +47 22 81 15 06  
[siri.dohlen@voksenaasen.no](mailto:siri.dohlen@voksenaasen.no)

#### Program:

John Y. Jones  
Tlf. +47 930 39 520  
[jones@networkers.no](mailto:jones@networkers.no)

#### Steering committee:

Karl Einar Ellingsen, Emily Sikazwe  
Jimmy Juma, Alejandro Bendaña  
John Y. Jones